

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 IO-13 /066 W  
----- 061085 /43

O R 191409Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4155  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8496

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: RABIN DISMISSES THE THREE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY MINISTERS

1. IN A MOVE WHICH SURPRISED POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND WHICH REFLECTED A DECISION IN WHICH HE HAD CONSULTED ONLY A FEW OF HIS CLOSEST ADVISORS -- PRIMARILY JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK -- PRIME MINISTER RABIN ANNOUNCED SUNDAY THAT HE WAS DISMISSING FROM THE CABINET THE THREE NRP MINISTERS. TWO OF THE THREE -- HAMMER AND RAPHAEL -- HAD ABSTAINED ON THE MOTION FOR NO CONFIDENCE DECEMBER 14, WHILE THE THIRD -- BURG -- HAD VOTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT AFTER HAVING OBTAINED NRP PERMISSION TO DO SO. RABIN NOTED BURG'S VOTE IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAID HE WAS BASING HIS ACTION ON FACTIONAL RATHER THAN PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

2. WITHOUT THE NRP, THE GOVERNMENT COALITION CONTROLS 57 SEATS OF 120 IN THE KNESSET. RABIN HAS TWO COURSES OF ACTION BEFORE HIM: HE CAN CONTINUE TO GOVERN AS A MINORITY GOVERNMENT - ALWAYS WITH THE RISK THAT HE MAY BE DEFEATED ON A FUTURE VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE OF OTHER KNESSET PARTIES UNITE IN OPPOSITION; HE CAN RESIGN AND THEN CONTINUE AS AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT UNTIL  
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NEW ELECTIONS. THE THREE MINISTRIES CAN BE ASSIGNED TO PRESENT MINISTERS AS ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS TEMPORARILY OR RABIN CAN APPOINT NEW MINISTERS TO HEAD THEM.

3. OUR INITIAL JUDGEMENT IS THAT EARLY ELECTIONS ARE INCREASINGLY LIKELY AND THAT, IN FACT, RABIN HAS TAKEN THIS

OPPORTUNITY TO FORCE EARLY ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO FORESTALL  
ANTICIPATED GAINS BY THE NEW PARTIES OF YADIN AND SHARON DURING  
A LENGTHY PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD.  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TELAV08496  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760466-0363  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761229/aaaaayvf.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by williarl>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RABIN DISMISSES THE THREE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY MINISTERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IS, (RABIN, YITZAAK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006